

# SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

106th Congress  
2nd Session

Vote No. 277

October 18, 2000, 5:29 p.m.  
Page S-10701 Temp. Record

## AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS/Conference, Passage

**SUBJECT:** Conference report to accompany the Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2001 . . . H.R. 4461. Agreeing to the report.

### ACTION: CONFERENCE REPORT AGREED TO, 86-8

**SYNOPSIS:** The conference report to accompany H.R. 4461, the Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2001, will provide \$78.145 billion in new budget authority for fiscal year (FY) 2001 (of which \$15.685 billion will be non-emergency discretionary budget authority), including \$3.652 billion in emergency appropriations. Loan authorizations will total \$11.906 billion. Details are provided below.

- Agriculture Programs, \$34.691 billion, including: \$27.771 billion for payments to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for net realized losses; and \$1.218 billion for the Farm Service Agency (with a loan level of \$3.098 billion).
- Conservation Programs, \$873.5 million.
- Rural Development Programs, \$2.487 billion, including: \$1.452 billion for the Rural Housing Service (with a loan level of \$5.069 billion); and \$107.7 million for the Rural Utilities Service (with a loan authorization level of \$3.687 billion).
- Domestic food assistance programs, \$34.117 billion, including: \$20.114 billion for the Food Stamp Program; \$4.052 billion for the Women, Infants, and Children Program; and \$9.542 billion for Child Nutrition programs.
- Foreign food assistance and related programs, \$1.093 billion.
- Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies, \$1.167 billion.
- The Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 will be enacted, which will open new markets to farmers by lifting sanctions on food and medicine to Cuba, Iran, Libya, North Korea, and Sudan to allow cash-only sales, and which will codify existing travel restrictions to Cuba.
- Subject to certain safeguards, licensed pharmacists and wholesalers will be permitted to purchase drugs from foreign sources for sale in the United States (see vote Nos. 216 and 217).
- A study will be conducted to determine why participation in the Food Stamp Program is declining (see vote No. 222).

(See other side)

YEAS (86)				NAYS (8)		NOT VOTING (6)	
Republicans (45 or 87%)		Democrats (41 or 98%)		Republicans (7 or 13%)	Democrats (1 or 2%)	Republicans (2)	Democrats (4)
Abraham	Hutchinson	Akaka	Kerry	Allard	Feingold	Grams <sup>-2</sup>	Biden <sup>-2</sup>
Ashcroft	Hutchison	Baucus	Kohl	Gramm		Helms <sup>-2</sup>	Feinstein <sup>-2</sup>
Bennett	Inhofe	Bayh	Landrieu	Kyl			Kennedy <sup>-2</sup>
Bond	Jeffords	Bingaman	Lautenberg	McCain			Lieberman <sup>-2</sup>
Brownback	Lott	Boxer	Leahy	Nickles			
Bunning	Lugar	Breaux	Levin	Smith, Bob			
Burns	Mack	Bryan	Lincoln	Voinovich			
Campbell	McConnell	Byrd	Mikulski				
Chafee	Murkowski	Cleland	Miller				
Cochran	Roberts	Conrad	Moynihan				
Collins	Roth	Daschle	Murray				
Craig	Santorum	Dodd	Reed				
Crapo	Sessions	Dorgan	Reid				
DeWine	Shelby	Durbin	Robb				
Domenici	Smith, Gordon	Edwards	Rockefeller				
Enzi	Snowe	Graham	Sarbanes				
Fitzgerald	Specter	Harkin	Schumer				
Frist	Stevens	Hollings	Torricelli				
Gorton	Thomas	Inouye	Wellstone				
Grassley	Thompson	Johnson	Wyden				
Gregg	Thurmond	Kerrey					
Hagel	Warner						
Hatch							

#### EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

#### SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

- An additional 100,000 acres will be authorized for the Wetlands Reserve Program.

**Those favoring** passage contended:

This conference report, though certainly not perfect, is one we are pleased to support for three major reasons. Our first reason for support is that we are pleased with the spending priorities it contains, especially in the areas of rural housing, food assistance programs, and emergency appropriations. These are all areas which we believed needed increased attention, and we are glad to see that the conferees agreed. The second reason many of us will support this bill is the prescription drug reimportation provision which will allow pharmacists and wholesalers to purchase American-made pharmaceuticals from foreign countries, where the drugs are often less costly, in order to resell them in the United States. Repeatedly, we debate the need for a prescription drug benefit for seniors and lament the high prices of medication; with this reimportation provision, we will at least take a step in the right direction of lowering prescription prices. The third major reason many of us find for supporting this conference report is the fact that food and medicine sanctions against Cuba, Iran, Libya, North Korea, and Sudan will be lifted. This provision will not only help farmers here in the United States, but also will benefit the people of those countries. We do not believe that food and medicine should be used as weapons and are proud to see that our push for this provision has carried. This is a good conference report, and we urge our colleagues to support it.

**While favoring** passage, some Senators expressed the following reservations:

Some of us are concerned about the spending levels in this bill. It seems that every year we are willing to spend more and more on projects that perhaps should not be priorities when there are other areas, such as health care and education, that need more attention. Others of us are concerned with the drug reimportation provision because of the potential danger of buying pharmaceuticals from foreign countries where health standards are not as stringent as those in the United States. We believe that this drug plan could put the health of Americans at risk and that this body needs to develop a better plan for prescription drug coverage, such as the plan that Senators and government workers have. Still others of us are concerned with the provision that will lift food and medicine sanctions. The problem with this provision is not the lifting of sanctions but the codification of existing restrictions on travel to Cuba. We do not believe the Federal government should be in the business of telling Americans where they may or may not travel. We recognize the beneficial spending that is provided in this bill, and, with these concerns voiced, will support this conference report and urge our colleagues to do the same.

**Those opposing** passage contended:

We are very concerned with this bill because of the high level of spending, a great deal of which will go to pay for porkbarrel projects in the States of powerful Senators and Representatives. It is likely that some of these projects are worthwhile, but we will never know, because the funding was added by conferees behind closed doors. Now we are forced to vote on an unamendable conference report with high levels of earmarked spending. We oppose passage of this conference report.